

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 and 22 are rejected. Claims 11-21 include allowable subject matter but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 1 has been amended, claim 15 has been canceled, and new claim 23 has been added. Claims 1-14 and 16-23 are now pending.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11-21. In accordance with the examiner's recommendation, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter from allowable dependent claim 15. Applicant has also added new claim 23, which corresponds to allowable dependent claim 12 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and intervening claims 7 and 10.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bibby. Claims 1, 7-10 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Devall et al. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bibby or Devall et al. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bibby in view of Horner, Jr.

Because the rejected independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter from dependent claim 15, applicant submits that these rejections are moot and requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

The claims have been shown to be allowable over the prior art. Applicant believes that this paper is responsive to each and every ground of rejection cited by the Examiner in the Action dated January 9, 2004, and respectfully requests favorable action in this application.

Appln. No. 10/090,463
Amendment dated April 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2004



If the Examiner desires personal contact for further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at 603.668.6560.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Carroll".

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 9, 2004, at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By April Davis